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12 March 1975

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: NASA Satellite Programs

1. The National Geodetic Satellite Program (NGSP), which was undertaken at the recommendation of the Subcommittee on Space Sciences of the House Committee on Science and Astronautics, was finalized in 1964. The primary objective of the NASA-managed NGSP has been to conduct geodetic measurements on a world-wide scale resulting in the determination of the global geometric networks of reference points to 10 meters, the determination of geoid features of 1500 km accurate to 10 meters, the improvement of the position and accuracy of sites on isolated islands, and the evaluation and intercomparison of geodetic tracking instrumentation used by various agencies.

2. So much for the terms of reference. There are 3 programs currently in being for which it could be argued that the DCI should have some interest, i.e., areas which could overlap NRP plans in the out-years or which might lead to changes in Soviet planning. They are:*

a. GEOS-C: A geodynamics experimental ocean satellite. Its objectives are to demonstrate the feasibility of obtaining satellite altimeter measurements of ocean topography, to determine the capability to measure sea state, to provide a more precise description of the earth's gravity field, and to improve the measurement of the variations in solid earth's geometry. A capability to measure sea state geometry to 30 centimeters is predicted. Launch is scheduled for this year.

*Data, accuracies, etc., cited are subject to further or more in-depth investigation on my part.

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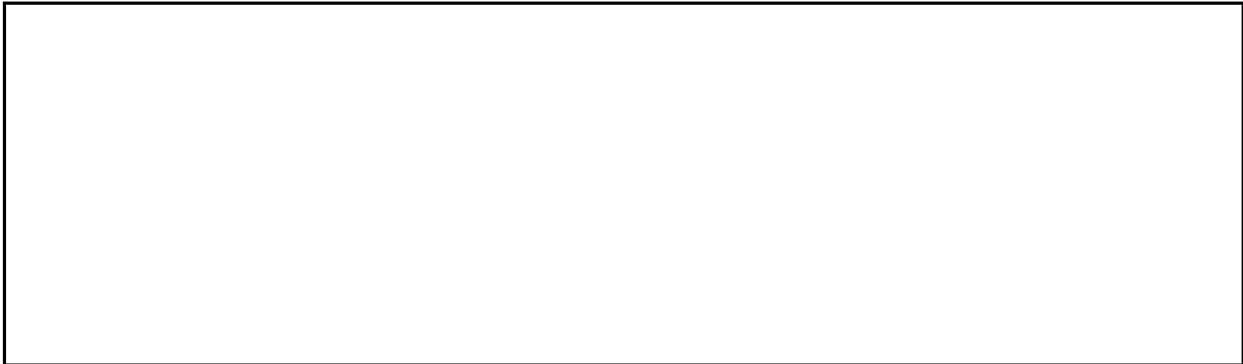
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b. SEASAT: A satellite to forecast ocean conditions. Sea state, wave direction, and surface winds will be measured. Wave heights will be determined to an accuracy of 10 centimeters. A side-looking radar will be aboard, in addition to radiometers, scatterometers, etc.

c. METSAT: A world-wide weather synchronous satellite system developed under NASA auspices. It is planned to locate two (funded by the U.S. Government) in the Western Hemisphere and two (one funded by the Soviet Union and the other by Iran) in the Eastern Hemisphere. Continuous world-wide weather update every 30 minutes is alleged to be within the system capability.



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4. The question arising out of all the above is, of course, what are areas of DCI interest? Some thoughts/questions are ventured.



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c. What is the impact on Soviet force planning in an era when world-wide weather data is available?

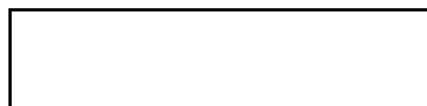
d. What will the Soviet reaction in terms of SAL be to U.S. actions to reduce CEP's?

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5. As you are aware, there is currently high-level concern by DDR&E and NRO on future interaction with NASA. I have previously provided you with a candidate agenda for the April ExCom. Do you think it productive to perhaps request Secretary Plummer to address some of the aspects/systems I have cited at the ExCom meeting?



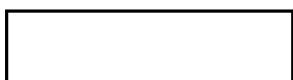
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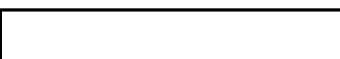
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